

# **Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children**

## **MEETING MINUTES February 12, 2015**

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**\*\*\*APPROVED\*\*\***

### **Members Present**

Sgt. Mark Boody  
Denise Busley  
Dr. Johanna Buzolits  
Deborah Carley  
Thomas Cottrell  
Kathy Hagenian  
Dr. Angie Kennedy  
Thomas Knapp  
Mary Lovik  
Hon. Cheryl Matthews  
Phyllis Van Order  
Mary Jane Tramontin  
Dorie Vasquez---Nolan  
Christopher Wigent  
Carol Hackett Garagiola, Chair

### **Members Absent**

Jerry Dorsey, IV  
Cassandra Harmon---Higgins

### **DHS Staff Present**

Kelcy McArthur  
Danielle Marek

### **Michigan Domestic & Sexual Violence Prevention & Treatment Board Staff Present:**

LaShawn Thurman, Task Force Coordinator

### **Guests Present**

Rachel Webster

### **Welcome and Introductions**

Chair C. Hackett Garagiola convened the eighth meeting of the Task Force on the Prevention of Sexual Abuse of Children, at the General Office Building, Conference Room B, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 7015 Harris Drive, Dimondale, MI 48813 on February 12, 2015 at 9:00 am, welcoming and thanking Task Force members and DHS staff for their participation. Guest Rachel Webster was welcomed to the meeting and thanked for

her presence and participation. Task Force members and DHS staff introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion: M.J. Tramontin to approve February 12, 2015 meeting agenda. Seconded by T. Cottrell. Motion carried.**

### **Approval of January 15, 2015 Meeting Minutes**

P. Van Order offered an amendment to the meeting member participants' list.

**Motion: T. Cottrell to approve the January 15, 2015 meeting minutes as amended. Seconded by M.J. Tramontin. Motion carried.**

### **Administrative Matters**

Members were advised that a conversation had been scheduled for February 27, 2015 with Thomas Combs, MI Department of Corrections Administrator of Prisoner Re---Entry Division, former Chair of MI Parole Board, and a clinically certified sex offender treatment specialist, and with David Dawdy, who currently oversees MDOC sex offender programming. Members were invited to participate in the conversation in person or via telephone. Members were advised that the conversation was for informational purposes only and that no deliberations toward Task Force decisions or recommendations would take place during the conversation.

Members were advised that Michael Foley, Executive Director of Michigan Children's Trust Fund, had offered to the Task Force the assistance of a CTF intern, to support accomplishment of Task Force responsibilities. Members expressed appreciation for the generosity of M. Foley and the CTF intern. It is expected that the intern's assistance will be utilized for compiling and analyzing survey responses, and reviewing protocols.

### **Mandated Reporter Laws Discussion**

Members engaged in an in---depth discussion of the relative merits of Michigan's Mandated Reporter Law, in comparison with "universal" mandated report laws and mandated reporter laws from other states. Members were in agreement about the goals of protecting all children and youth from all child sexual abusers, improving outcomes for survivors of child sexual abuse, and preventing perpetrators from re---offending. Members were not in agreement about whether and how expanding Michigan's Mandated Reporter Law would promote those goals. Members expressed their differing opinions and provided rationale for their perspectives. Members discussed the particular challenges faced by adolescent victims of sexual abuse in receiving supportive, appropriate systems responses to their disclosures of sexual abuse. Members discussed the need for more Child Advocacy Centers to improve systems responses to disclosures. Members agreed to continue considering all perspectives presented regarding this issue, and to advise if further discussion

is desired, or if possible resolution is proposed.

### **Survivor Outreach Update**

K. Hagenian and T. Cottrell reported about the focus group discussion they arranged for and participated in with survivors of child sexual abuse. K. Hagenian and T. Cottrell provided an overview of the concerns, opinions and experiences shared by the survivors in the focus group, including but not limited to: secondary trauma caused by individual and systems responses to disclosures; unpreparedness of parents to handle disclosures; need for support for family members of survivors of child sexual abuse preceding and following disclosure; desire and need for meaningful interventions with perpetrators who stay in or are released back into the family and community; need for services to help survivors heal from the physical as well as emotional trauma. K. Hagenian and T. Cottrell advised that a written report would be provided to the Task Force, and additional focus groups with survivors of child sexual abuse are planned.

Members discussed strategies for reaching a larger group of survivors to provide input to the Task Force. Members D. Vasquez---Nolan, J. Buzolits, T. Cottrell, guest R. Webster, and chair C. Hackett Garagiola volunteered to finalize the plans for publicizing the survey that will be open for public response, and mechanisms for getting the survey to survivors of child sexual abuse.

### **Protocol Development Update and Facilitated Discussion**

M. Lovik provided members with an update of the protocol development work she is leading for the Task Force, pursuant to MCL 722.632b(3)(i). She reviewed with members the “Action Steps” she had outlined in a handout to guide the protocol development efforts. Members identified and discussed common elements for protocols for all community partners, as well as some specific protocol content for specific community partners. M. Lovik also provided to members a “Review Template” for use by members who are examining the protocols that M. Lovik and other Task Force members have gathered from child---serving organizations, faith---based organizations and other organizations and systems involved in prevention of or response to child sexual abuse. The purpose of the “Review Template” is to assist in identifying content and gaps, and assessing the relative value of the various protocols examined so that the best models can be incorporated into the protocol developed by the Task Force. M. Lovik advised that the review of collected protocols by M. Lovik and by members C. Harmon---Higgins, M.J. Tramontin, D. Vasquez---Nolan, D. Busley, Hon. C. Matthews, and guest R. Webster is on---going. She invited additional members to assist with that review.

C. Wigent discussed the components of the “Michigan Model for Health Curriculum” that address child sexual abuse and asked members to consider its usefulness to the work of the Task Force.

### **Public Awareness Programs and Materials Update**

D. Busley informed the Task Force about her contacts with individuals and organizations leading child sexual abuse prevention efforts across the nation, including but not limited to directors or staff from the National Coalition to Prevent Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault, National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence, and the Gunderson National Child Protection Training Center. She has obtained materials from all of these organizations and provided them to members working on protocol development. She is continuing her communication with these organizations, and her efforts to identify other recognized leaders in the field of prevention of child sexual abuse, to ensure that the Task Force is aware of and informed by their work.

### **Information Gathering Status and Update**

J. Buzolits reported on the progress of the survey dissemination. Surveys have been sent to numerous organizations representing medical professionals, mental health professionals, education professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, attorneys representing parents or children in child protective proceedings, judges, referees, probation officers, Friend of the Court personnel, and others. More of these professional organizations have agreed to distribute the survey to their members in the coming weeks. J. Buzolits advised that survey responses are being received and reviewed.

Members reported on their efforts to obtain training materials and protocols from national and state training and technical assistance providers for professionals responding to child sexual abuse, including medical professionals, mental health professionals, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, attorneys representing parents and children in child protective proceedings, child welfare system caseworkers, school personnel and others. D. Carley advised that during the March 5 Task Force meeting she will report back to the Task Force about the best materials and protocols available for prosecutors and law enforcement officers responding to child sexual abuse in criminal justice, juvenile justice, or child welfare systems. Member Hon. C. Matthews will do the same with regard to judges handling child sexual abuse issues in criminal, juvenile justice, child protective, or child custody proceedings.

### **Lunch**

Members participated in a lunch at their own expense, using no public funds.

### **Public Comment**

No public comment was offered.

### **Thank you and next meeting**

C. Hackett Garagiola thanked meeting participants for the thoughtful discussion that took place during the meeting. The next Task Force meeting is scheduled for:

Thursday, March 5, 2015  
9:00 a.m. --- 3:00 p.m.  
General Office Building  
Conference Room B – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
7015 Harris Drive  
Dimondale, MI 48813

**Adjournment**

**Motion: M. Lovik to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by M.J. Tramontin.  
Motion carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Hackett Garagiola